

# Admission Policy for Doctoral Program in Microbiology and Immunology at The University of Osaka in Japan Admission in October 2026/April 2027 (for recommendation from Mahidol University)

## 1. Microbiology and Immunology Research at The University of Osaka

The maintenance and improvement of global health are essential for saving lives from various diseases, including emerging infectious diseases, and for enriching society. Advancing fundamental research to help us understand the complex mechanisms in the human body is necessary to achieve this goal. In particular, the global COVID-19 pandemic these past few years severely impacted society and posed a significant threat to public health, highlighting the need for this type of research. Through fundamental research that explores the mechanisms of infection by microorganisms, such as viruses and bacteria, and the responses by the immune system, we can develop effective strategies to better combat the threat of such emerging infectious diseases.

The University of Osaka is one of Japan's leading research universities and has a long tradition of making significant contributions to medical research, particularly in the fields of microbiology and immunology. Specifically, the Immunology Frontier Research Center (iReC), the Research Institute for Microbial Diseases (RIMD), the Center for Infectious Diseases Education and Research (CiDER), and the Center for Advanced Modalities and DDS (CAMA'D) continue this tradition at The University of Osaka by bringing together internationally active and prominent microbiology and immunology researchers. These experts conduct research in an international standard research environment and have produced world-class research results.

Recent technological innovations in the fields of microbiology and immunology, such as the advent of single-cell analysis techniques and informatics technology, have brought about a major transformation in these traditional fields. These research institutions at The University of Osaka are dedicated to advancing new fundamental research aimed at elucidating human physiological mechanisms, with the goal of developing treatments for human diseases and making meaningful contributions to society.

## 2. Doctoral Program for Microbiology and Immunology and Recommendations from Mahidol University

The program aims to cultivate young researchers with a high level of expertise and profound knowledge in microbiology and immunology, thus enabling them to excel globally through the high-quality education and research opportunities in The University of Osaka's exceptional research environment. Furthermore, we aspire to empower these young researchers to explore new research frontiers and become leaders of the next generation who contribute to the world through groundbreaking research in microbiology and immunology.

The program recruits highly qualified and motivated students residing outside of Japan, and relies heavily on recommendations from Mahidol University, an esteemed educational and research institution with a long-standing and strong partnership with The

University of Osaka, in order to assess the abilities and qualities of the applicants. Students admitted to this program will be enrolled in the Graduate School of Medicine at The University of Osaka. The Graduate School of Medicine offers an integrated curriculum that includes lectures and seminars by world-leading professors from a wide range of research fields, not only life sciences, but also other fields to promote interdisciplinary research to broaden perspectives and foster new fields of study. These courses are conducted in English. In addition, students will conduct their dissertation research under the supervision of a principal investigator at IFReC, RIMD, CiDER, or CAMaD, who is also affiliated with the Graduate School of Medicine. A doctoral degree can be obtained by completing the required coursework at the graduate school and their dissertation research. The standard doctoral program in the Graduate School of Medicine is four years, and it is possible to obtain a doctoral degree in "Medicine." Students in this program are eligible for a tuition fees waiver, and will receive a scholarship to be provided by the Research Foundation for Microbial Diseases of Osaka University (BIKEN Foundation). Further details are available on the program website.

### **3. Applicant Eligibility**

**University admission dates differ depending on whether the applicant meets the eligibility requirements of 1-A or 1-B.**

**\*1-A: Admission in October 2026**

**\*\*1-B: Admission in April 2027**

**Admission dates are determined by the regulations of The University of Osaka Graduate School of Medicine. Therefore, applicants should be aware of the difference in admission dates for application qualifications 1-A and 1-B below.**

Applicants for this program must be non-Japanese nationals residing outside of Japan at the time of application and possess the qualifications in (1-A or 1-B) and (2), and the qualities listed in (3) below.

**\*(1-A) Applicants who meet any of the following qualifications **between April 1st and September 30th of 2026** can apply for admission in **October 2026**:**

**\*Excluding** applicants who meet the qualifications by March 31<sup>st</sup> of 2026

- a) Individuals who expect to complete eighteen (18) years of schooling in a country other than Japan between April 1st and September 30th of 2026.
- b) Individuals who expect to receive the equivalent of a bachelor's degree through the completion of coursework which requires five (5) or more years of study at an overseas university or school (limited to schools evaluated by organizations that are certified by overseas governments, or relevant agencies, on the comprehensive progress of their education and research, or schools which are designated separately by the Minister of MEXT) between April 1st and September 30th of 2026.

**\*\*(1-B) Applicants who meet any of the following qualifications **by March 31st of 2027** can apply for **April 2027 enrolment**:**

**\*\*Including** applicants who meet the qualifications by March 31st of 2026

- a) Individuals who have completed or expect to complete eighteen (18) years of schooling in a country other than Japan by March 31st of 2027.
- b) Individuals who have received or expect to receive the equivalent of a bachelor's degree through the completion of coursework which requires five (5) or more years of study at an overseas university or school (limited to schools evaluated by organizations that are certified by overseas governments, or relevant agencies, on the comprehensive progress of their education and research, or schools which are designated separately by the Minister of MEXT) by March 31st of 2027.
- c) Individuals who are at least twenty-four (24) years of age at the time of March 31, 2027, and who are recognized by the Graduate School of Medicine as having academic capabilities equal to or exceeding those of an individual who has completed a course in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, or pharmacy, based on a separate admission qualification evaluation.

(2) Applicants must have sufficient English language proficiency with **TOEFL-iBT 80 or higher (taken after December 2024)**. (Japanese language proficiency is not required.)

(3) Applicants must have the following qualities:

- Strong interest in life sciences
- Curiosity to explore the unknown world
- Dedication to work on tasks until completion
- Communication skills that transcend the boundaries of academia
- Flexibility to incorporate knowledge from other fields without being limited to one's own field of expertise
- International mindset for a global tomorrow
- Determination to overcome difficulties
- Spirit of pioneering new research fields and changing the world
- Leadership to lead a team to achieve capabilities that transcend the individual

#### 4. Schedule

<b>By February 25 2026</b>	Applicants send application documents to the local selection committee at Mahidol University. ( <b>Deadline: February 25 2026</b> )
<b>March</b> 2026	First round selection: Local selection committee at Mahidol University screens application documents.
<b>March to April</b> 2026	Second round selection: Selection committee at The University of Osaka interviews successful first round applicants at Mahidol University and/or online.
<b>April to May</b> 2026	Notification of the results of the second round selection.
<b>June 2026</b> <b>*Qualification (1-A)</b>	Successful applicants send documents to the Graduate

August 2026 <b>**Qualification (1-B)</b>	School of Medicine, The University of Osaka for final confirmation.
October 2026 <b>*Qualification (1-A)</b>	Admission to the Graduate School of Medicine at The University of Osaka
April 2027 <b>**Qualification (1-B)</b>	

\*Successful applicants who meet the **qualification (1-A)** will be admitted to The University of Osaka from **October 2026** after final confirmation.

\*\*Successful applicants who meet the **qualification (1-B)** will be admitted to The University of Osaka from **April 2027** after final confirmation.